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School Committee Special Mtg Minutes 05/03/2012

Approved by the Arlington School Committee June 7, 2012

*Arlington School Committee
Special School Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 3, 2012
8:00 p.m.*

*Arlington High School
School Committee Room – Sixth Floor
869 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476*

Present: Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Chair, Mr. Judson Pierce, Vice Chair, Ms. Leba Heigham, Secretary, Mr. Jeff Thielman, Ms. Cindy Starks and Mr. William Hayner.

Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Mr. Robert Spiegel, Human Resource Director and Ms. Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant

*Special meeting to fill committee vacancy until next general election.
Applicant statements and interviews, committee discussion and voting.*

Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe said The Special Meeting this evening was called due to Mr. Curro's vacancy from School Committee for the reason that he was elected to Board of Selectmen. Dr. Allison-Ampe introduced the Assistant Moderator, Mr. James O'Conor who was here to help with the time clock for the applicants statements and interviews, and demonstrated how the clock would work. The five candidates in order of the draw were, Mr. James Flanagan, Mr. Paul Schlichtman, Mr. Len Kardon, Ms. Karen Bjorkman and Mr. Andrew O'Brien. Each candidate gave a one minute opening statement.

The committee members rotated in asking each candidate a question and the candidates rotated answering as well. One of the key questions of the night was when Dr. Allison-Ampe asked for a one word answer Yes or No when she asked if the candidates would run again in the next election: Mr. Flanagan said Yes, Mr. Schlichtman said he did not know, Mr. Kardon said No, Ms. Bjorkman said she did not know, and Mr. O'Brien said No. Other questions ranged how candidates would handle Special Education issues and parents questions to how they felt making late night decisions, to how much time and commitment they had to serve on the committee.

Dr. Allison-Ampe informed the School Committee and Administration that she shall take a roll call vote to select the new member and that four votes were needed to secure the winner. The new appointed School Committee member must go to the Town Clerks office to take the oath of office.

After the Recess at 9:35 p.m.

The committee cast their ballots as follows:

*Mr. Hayner voted for Mr. Flanagan
Ms. Starks voted for Mr. Schlichtman
Mr. Thielman voted for Mr. Schlichtman*

Ms. Heigham voted for Mr. Schlichtman

Mr. Pierce voted for Mr. Kardon

Dr. Allison-Ampe voted for Mr. Schlichtman

Voted: 4-2 for Mr. Schlichtman to fill School Committee vacancy until April 2013 election.

Mr. Pierce moved the 10 0'clock rule to 10:10 p.m. seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 6-0

Dr. Allison-Ampe and the committee members thanked and encouraged all the candidates to stay involved in Arlington Public Schools. Dr. Allison-Ampe pointed out that a Special School Committee is needed to be called for the purpose of discussion and voting the Special Education Reserve Funds before Town Meeting on Wednesday, May 9, 2012.

Mr. Thielman moved to schedule a Special School Committee meeting on Wednesday, May 9, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at a location in Town Hall, TBD, (Selectmen's Chambers), to discuss Article 47 Special Education Reserve Account and setting of amount to be Transferred and any other discussion needed prior to Town Meeting & School Budget Presentation. Seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 6-0

Ms. Heigham moved to adjourn at 10:00 p.m., seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Voted: 6-0

Respectfully submitted by

Karen M. Fitzgerald

Administrative Assistant

School Committee